

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

[No. 39 of 1879.]

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th September 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhinī" ... ..	Chittagong	550	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	
7	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	658	16th September 1879.
8	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	16th ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	400	21st ditto.
11	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	19th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	20th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beaulah, Rājshāhye...	200	17th ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	26th ditto.
15	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	900	22nd ditto.
16	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	19th ditto.
17	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	18th ditto.
18	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	21st ditto.
19	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	22nd ditto.
20	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	
21	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	.....	
22	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh	.....	15th ditto.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	20th ditto.
24	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	8th, 15th, and 22nd September 1879.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
25	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
26	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	700	17th to 25th September 1879.
27	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	19th to 25th ditto.
28	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	18th to 25th ditto.
29	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	22nd to 27th ditto.
30	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	17th to 20th, and 23rd to 26th September 1879.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
32	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	13th September 1879.
<b>ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.</b>				
<i>Daily.</i>				
33	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto	.....	22nd to 27th September 1879.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	17th September 1879.
35	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	18th ditto.
36	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	22nd ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
37	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	



## POLITICAL.

URDU GUIDE,  
September 13th, 1879.

THE *Urdu Guide*, of the 13th September, thus writes regarding the Massacre at Cabul:—It is to be regretted that

The outbreak at Cabul.

the character of the treaty of Gundamuk, which was the outcome of so much expenditure of life and treasure, was not perceived at the time of its conclusion. All doubt, however, has been set at rest; and it is now found to be utterly worthless. Preparations must now be made all at once for a fresh war on a vaster scale than the first one. The policy of the Afghan war has furnished matter for difference of opinion, but this journal has been an advocate of it from the beginning. The disaster which has befallen the Residency must be regarded as a sad event, particularly by the Mahomedans of India. The treaty of Gundamuk was calculated to consolidate a neighbouring Mahomedan power; all expectations, however, have been frustrated through the fanatic actions of a reckless soldiery.

SANJIVANI,  
September 15th, 1879.

2. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Sanjivani*,

Government and the discontent of the people.

of the 15th September:—The conquest of India by the British nation is an event the like of which will not be found in the annals of any other country or people. What a contrast between the Englishmen who, in the sixteenth century, came to trade in the East Indies and the Englishmen of the present day! No other nation has ever, perhaps, been so lucky. The conquest of a kingdom has always involved bloody and costly wars. But it has not been so in the conquest of India. How many wars, or what expenditure of life and treasure, could be pointed to as having taken place in the course thereof? But although there has been little war, the empire that has passed under British sway is vast. In fact, it has proved a cheap acquisition to a lucky people. The British empire in India is founded on a fraudulent transaction (literally on red and white compacts),\* and was inaugurated in discontent. So long as the people of India remained steeped in ignorance, the indistinct expressions of their opinions might not be taken into account. At the present time, however, when education has fitted them for the comprehension and discussion of all public questions, their views have become broader; and when they cast a look upon the empire stretching from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin and from the Indus to the Brahmaputra, upon its cities and towns, rivers, mountains, and corn-fields, a sigh escapes them, and they ask—"Whose are these vast domains?" The question is natural, and is an outcome of infinite dissatisfaction and endless discontent. Government is not unaware of this; nor are efforts wanting on its part to arrest the progress of the evil and inspire the people with respect for its authority. But have its exertions succeeded in removing their heart-burnings? If it is the duty of a newspaper to represent accurately the feelings of the people to Government, we must fearlessly assert that the people of India feel they are not able to be satisfied with the present state of things. The benefits of a University education, and of postal and police arrangements notwithstanding, nothing will give them satisfaction until the national grievance is redressed. The intrigues of Clive are even now patent, and the administration of Dalhousie is clearly depicted in the pages of history. Kingdom after kingdom and one country after another have been, through force, fraud, or diplomacy, annexed to British dominions. Who that reads the accounts of those transactions does not feel disappointed in Dalhousie or dissatisfied with the British Government? Being natives of India, as we are, it would not be strange even if we unnecessarily slandered Lord Dalhousie; but read what a friendly critic, an Englishman (Major Evans Bell), has written about him. The people of India will send forth a deep wail from their hearts as often as they may read the history of Lord Dalhousie's administration.

\* Clive's treatment of the claims of Omichand in the course of negotiations with Mir Jaffir is possibly referred to.



Not to speak of the past, what do we see in the present? We have already observed that Government is aware of the existence of universal discontent in the land, and that means are being used for removing it. Now let us see what these means are. Act IX was passed with a view to check the prevalence of discontent which was being fostered by the uninformed and libellous writings of the vernacular newspapers. But, may we ask, has the Press Act succeeded in accomplishing this object? A multiplicity of taxes was harassing the people and producing profound discontent, when it was proclaimed that the proceeds of the taxes would be expended for purposes of famine-relief. As a matter of fact, however, they were expended in war. May we ask—has this given, or was it likely to give, satisfaction? It was again proclaimed that natives would henceforth be appointed to superior offices under Government; but, in practice, the limit of age for candidates for the Indian Civil Service was lowered, while the scheme of a new Civil Service has been artfully devised. We beg to ask—is this likely to satisfy the people? Not to refer to the question of the Berars, another small matter may claim a moment's consideration. Have the people of Mymensingh been gratified at the display of the stratagem by which the Susanga hills have been taken possession of? In litigation the Maharajah was successful; but Government compassed its object by taking advantage of special legislation. To impart an appearance of equity to the transaction, however, the former has been paid a sum of one and-a-half lakh of rupees. The discontent of the people is thus daily increasing. The British Government has no power to check its force. What they regard as the remedy contains precisely the germs of the disease. While one breach is sought to be repaired, a hundred others make known their existence. The misery of the people in India is infinite, and their heart-burnings endless. Their hearts are already lacerated, but Government occasionally handles these sore parts to enhance their pain. Add to this Lord Lytton's parade of poetry and words that are never to be acted up to. How much can the people bear? How unlucky the Indian empire is! The misery passes expression or endurance. A hundred iron blows may break the head, but the pain is not to be given expression to, for to do so would be seditious. The administration has become, as it were, the pleasure-ground of the rulers and the sport of the ministry, while the people are weak and powerless. Unless there is a change of policy, the prevalence of universal discontent is unavoidable. We are not seditious. What shall we do, placed, as we are, on the horns of a dilemma?

3. We extract the following observations from the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 16th September, relative to the Massacre of the Envoy and his *suite* in Cabul:—

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
September 16th, 1879.

The Cabul disaster.

Scarcely three months have elapsed since the treaty of Gundamuk, which was the subject of so much rejoicing with the Beaconsfield ministry, was signed, when a grave disaster has occurred at Cabul. It was an act of extreme unwisdom to place a Resident in Cabul without having, in the first instance, brought the whole country under subjection. Government discredited the warnings of Shere Ali, and congratulated themselves upon their success in concluding a treaty with Yakub Khan, which, among other things, gave them the right of placing an Envoy at Cabul. The truth of the late Amir's warnings, based on the known character of the Afghan people, has now been shewn. Government, too, was not ignorant of their disposition; nor have events, such as those which have now happened, been rare in that country. If the Government of India had therefore pondered a little over these matters, we should have now been spared the sad duty of mourning over the untimely and helpless deaths of Sir L. Cavagnari and his *suite*. Nothing that Government may do now will avenge this needless massacre. Neither



the occupation of Cabul, nor the punishment, however severe, of the murderers will dissipate the feeling of sorrow which has been occasioned. Once before, through the indiscretion of Lord Auckland, had five thousand British troops perished by the hands of the enemy in the narrow defiles of Afghanistan. Owing to the short-sighted policy of Lord Lytton, the same scene has been acted over again. For this, the names of these two men will for ever disgrace the pages of history. Who will deny that the tragical event which has now occurred in Cabul has been due only to the indiscretion of Government? The second Afghan war is about to begin to the great misfortune of India. After the close of one war, when peace was expected, the people are suffering from the effects of famines and destructive floods; and instead of being engaged in mitigating their severity, and in finding means for replenishing an empty exchequer, the rulers must now think of another war.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 16th, 1879.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 16th September, thus writes on the same subject:—However strongly we may have condemned the original policy which

The Cabul disaster.  
caused the Afghan war, and however strongly we may have blamed the British Government on account of the fearful injustice which has been done to us in connection with the expenses of this war, we are, nevertheless, extremely sorry for the disaster which has now befallen Government. It would seem as though the present year were one of considerable trouble to Government. In England, there is depression of trade and agriculture. In Africa, there has been the Zulu war; and although the disgrace of Isandula has been partially retrieved at Ulundi, the Zulu Chief is yet at large. It is said that the war is at an end, but we do not find this to be the case in practice. The King of Burmah has assumed a hostile attitude; and it is possible that some thing should be shortly found to be necessary to satisfy his craving for war. India is in a moribund condition. There is neither corn in the fields nor money in the Exchequer. We thought that the frontier line, to secure which Lord Beaconsfield had denied himself even every personal comfort, was now really obtained, that the accounts of the war expenditure were adjusted; but, as our ill-luck would have it, hardly had the ink been dry with which we wrote the concluding word of our history of this Afghan war, when the necessity arises of resuming our narrative.

This is not the time for casting any reproach on the Government for its short-sightedness or abuse of power in the past. It cannot afford to follow the advice of the *Indian Mirror*, and swallow the bitter affront which has been put upon it. Whoever may be the offenders, the infliction of punishment should constitute the first step in the proposed movements. Unless this were done, British prestige would suffer. But although it is desirable to punish the real offenders, we fear lest the innocent should be made to suffer for the guilty. Who are the offenders? It is suggested by some of the daily papers that Yakub Khan might have been at the bottom of the conspiracy which culminated in the massacre of the British Envoy; but facts, as far as they have been supplied to us, do not confirm this view. Considering the peculiar circumstances of his position and the tone of his whole correspondence and relations with the British Government, it does not seem probable that Yakub Khan had had any hand in the late disaster. The insult which has been offered to the British Government should be avenged; and the rulers, too, have acted with promptitude. Preparations on a larger scale than in the first war are briskly going on. But a difficulty has presented itself for solution—Where is the enemy to fight with? Suppose the British flag is again planted on the heights of the Bala Hissar over the lifeless remains of the British subjects who have fallen there. Does this wipe out the disgrace? How will you discover



the whereabouts of the Heratee regiments, who have vanished from the scene after having committed the deed of slaughter? If they have dispersed, how will you find them out? The inhabitants of Cabul, who had joined in the late massacre, should next be visited with punishment. When that is done, all idea of placing a British Resident in Cabul must be given up. It is impossible to be always on one's guard in a country where all are enemies. That, by making a treaty with the British Government, Yakub Khan has become unpopular with a considerable section of his people, could not be doubted for a moment. If, unable to resist the force of public opinion, he has been compelled to take part in the tragedy which has just been enacted at Cabul, it is certain that he will have to pay for it with his life; but the prospect before the Government of India is not also promising. We cannot tell where this Cabul imbroglio will end. It would seem as though the tortuous policy of the Beaconsfield ministry were drawing India to a fate from which nothing might save her. There has been a recoil; and the events at Cabul seem like a cruel fate to lead the Government of India it knows not where.

5. There could be no doubt, remarks the same paper, as to the duty which lies immediately before the Government of India. The murder of Sir L. Cavagnari

The Cabul disaster.

BHARAT MIRIE,  
September 16th, 1879.

must be avenged. Preparations also, on a large scale, are being made for this purpose. We sincerely wish that the real offenders, at whose instigation the massacre has been committed, may be visited with condign punishment; that the people of Cabul may be convinced of the atrocious character of such cowardly attacks as were made on the Envoy and his party by persons who were defeated in open war, and that General Roberts may return triumphant from Cabul. But, in this connection, we have had one fear from the beginning, which has been rather aggravated by the intelligence that no independent newspaper correspondents will be allowed to accompany the General. In the excitement of war, will General Roberts be able to discriminate between the guilty and the innocent? Who knows how many of the latter class will be shot down? The world will not be given to know of the oppressions and atrocities which may be committed by the British army.

In the meantime, who will comfort the sorrowing heart of Lady Cavagnari? Who is responsible for the deaths of Sir L. Cavagnari and the members of his escort? Who had placed them within so easy reach of death in utter disregard of the warnings of experience? Who brought about a needless war and increased the difficulties of India? This is not the time to blame Lord Lytton, or for shewing asperity, or finding fault. That hour will, however, shortly arrive. The treaty of Gundamak was made in utter disregard of the warnings of Shere Ali and of many experienced English diplomatists who were all opposed to the policy of placing a British Resident in Cabul. Within two months, however, it has become a dead-letter; and all the expenditure incurred and the boastful language employed are now seen to have been as idle as a child's play. But what will now be the policy of Government regarding Cabul? Yakub, it is evident, is perfectly helpless as regards any control over his people. The scheme of stationing a Resident in Afghanistan with a small escort must now, we think, be abandoned. Yet it does not seem that Government will willingly adopt this course. The writer promises to return to the subject.

6. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 17th September, refers to the unruly and treacherous character of the Afghans.

HINDU RANJIKI,  
September 17th, 1879.

The Cabul disaster.

Even Aurungzebe, who possessed an indomitable will, was compelled at length to confess his inability to cope with them. The British, too, knew their character well; and it was therefore extremely rash and unwise on their part to place an Envoy at Cabul,



attended with such an insufficient escort. The consequences of their indiscretion have become patent within a short time. Preparations on a vast scale are now being made for war. If the insurgents are promptly reduced to submission, the hostilities will be but of a short duration; otherwise, no one can yet tell how many crores of rupees will be wasted. One thing, however, is certain: it is we who shall suffer in the end. We do not believe that Government will ever be able to subdue the Afghans as completely as they have subdued us.

PRATIKAR,  
September 19th, 1879.

7. In writing upon this subject, the *Pratikár*, of the 19th September, expresses similar views. The Editor translates largely from the *Statesman*.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
September 20th, 1879.

8. Adverting to the Massacre in Cabul, the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 20th September, remarks that the death of the Envoy will not be avenged until the offenders

are visited with severe punishment. Regarding the fear of a Russian advance in the direction of Afghanistan, which haunts the minds of the ministry, the editor would observe that, even if such a contingency were possible, which it is not, there would not be much room for anxiety. The European and native troops in India are well prepared to meet any enemy, while many of the Sardars in Afghanistan and the Khan of Khelat are disposed to side with the British. Considering, however, the difficulties of her internal administration, it is next to impossible that Russia should entertain any hostile designs upon India. If she did entertain any such designs, it would not be long before she discovered her error.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
September 22nd, 1879.

9. We give below the substance of an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd September, headed "Who will bear the costs of this war?" Preparations for war are being made on a gigantic scale. Government is straining every nerve to facilitate the transport of troops and improve the means of communications. Railways and tramways are being pushed on with great expedition. In their eagerness to retrieve their prestige, the rulers have but little thought to bestow on the question of expense, which this time will doubtless reach a figure higher than in the first war. Strictly speaking, the first war was not one worthy of the name. It was a war against Shere Ali and not against the Afghan nation. Successes were rapidly achieved; neither the people nor their Sardars had taken up arms against the invaders. The death of Shere Ali and the desire of Yakub Khan to conclude peace soon led to the termination of hostilities. The case is, however, otherwise this time. The disposition of the Afghans cannot yet be ascertained. Herat and some of the provinces are in open revolt. The Amir has become unpopular with a considerable section of his subjects on account of his alliance with the British Government. Considering their hatred of the British, it does not seem likely that they will readily acknowledge the supremacy of the invaders. The co-operation of the Sardars cannot be counted upon. Again, the winter is at hand. All these circumstances point to the conclusion that the costs of this war will be larger than those of the former; in short, the amount will not, in all likelihood, be less than ten to twelve crores of rupees. The question now arises—Who will pay this cost, England or India? The ministry no doubt from fear of offending their supporters, on whose goodwill their continuance in power depends, will seek to throw this burden on the shoulders of this country. But the latter is not able to bear it. Her exchequer is empty. The expenditure must be met either by the imposition of fresh taxes or the opening of new loans. The former is impossible. The people are poor and harassed by taxes. There is distress everywhere. The limit of taxation has been reached. As to opening new loans, that also is not practicable. With the increase in the



amount of the public debt in every succeeding year, the credit of Government has diminished. Loans cannot be raised in this country where the people are poor; while the frequently-recurring deficits have destroyed the credit of Government in foreign markets. Even the costs of the first Afghan war, which, in utter violation of all principles of equity and reasoning, were thrown upon this country could not be met until England had granted a loan of two crores to the Government of India. This time, also, it is certain the same course will have to be followed; although it is equally certain that India will never be in a position to repay these loans. But, apart from the consideration of her inability to pay the war charges, the question is—Should India in justice be held liable for them? Reason and fairness alike demand that England should pay these costs. No one can deny that the war was undertaken in her interest, and for enhancing her prestige. Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Lytton have both said this. There is yet another reason why England and not India should pay for this war. The policy of the Afghan war, and the consequences which have resulted from that policy, have been consistently opposed by the vernacular newspapers, the only organs of public opinion in this country. Government has acted in opposition to the wishes of the people; and it is not certainly fair to make them pay for acts of which they did not approve. On the other hand, the ministry and the English people have sanctioned the measures adopted by the Government of India; and, considering that Parliament has the power in its hands of retaining or dispensing with the services of any ministry or Viceroy, it is but just that it should incur the responsibility of the latter's actions.

10. Adverting to the advance of British troops in Afghanistan, the *Sahachar*, of the 22nd September, would advise Government to act with caution. The indications are that there has been a national rising in Afghanistan. Government should beware of placing any reliance upon any hill tribes. It will be perfectly useless to make them any payments, for the favour will be soon forgotten.

*SAHACHAR*,  
September 22nd, 1879.

11. The same paper writes the following:—The ministry, Lord Lytton, Sir Henry Rawlinson, and the author of the Isandula disaster, are mainly responsible for the unfortunate deaths of Cavagnari and his *suite*. What is done is done, and cannot now be redressed. We simply condemn the rash short-sightedness of the authorities. We ask them, because we know that they meant well, to take note of their short-comings, and, abandoning their present reprehensible Afghan policy, to listen to the voice of wisdom and experience. All their bluster notwithstanding, the British public now see as clear as noon-day that their Afghan policy has been a failure. That a scientific frontier has not been obtained; that the policy has not led to the establishment of friendship with Afghanistan, or helped in any way to check the advance of Russia in Central Asia. No advantages have been obtained; on the contrary, the policy has produced many disadvantages. It has destroyed Shere Ali and his power, produced anarchy in Afghanistan, and made the lawless inhabitants of that country enemies of the British Government. Where is now Lord Lytton's proclamation that the war was not one against the people, but the Amir of Afghanistan? What a pity that the glass-house erected by Lord Lytton has collapsed so soon after its construction! The Editor then discusses the courses that are now before Government, and the particular line of policy which it should follow as regards that country. He is of opinion that a retirement from it after having inflicted due punishment on the offenders is the only feasible course before the rulers.

*SAHACHAR*.



## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

**BHARAT MIHIR,**  
September 16th, 1879.

12. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 16th September, notices with regret that Government has acceded to the unreasonable request of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to reduce the number of the Durgapuja holidays. It has, however, effected a compromise, and fixed the number of days at eight. This has occasioned considerable dissatisfaction, and is felt to be a great injustice. The Durgapuja is a national festival and the occasion of family reunions. We do not see how a reduction of this period of rest allowed in a year to their overworked native employés is likely to benefit the European merchants. The writer hopes that the matter will be taken up by his contemporaries of the native press and the public associations in the country.

**PRATIKAR,**  
September 19th, 1879.

13. On the subject of the rules recently published by Government for the admission of natives of India into the Civil Service, the *Pratikār*, of the 19th September, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 8 of our report of the 13th September 1879.

**HINDU HITASHINI,**  
September 20th, 1879.

14. On the subject of the Durgapuja holidays, the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 20th September, makes remarks similar to those noticed in paragraph 12.

**DACCA PRAKASH,**  
September 21st, 1879.

15. Writing on the same subject the *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 21st September, makes the following observations:—By reducing the number of the Durgapuja holidays at the instance of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Government has injured not only the interests of the natives, but its own also. It is exceedingly to be regretted that, under the influence of class and personal considerations, the once liberal British policy is gradually deteriorating in character. A love of one's own race is indeed commendable; but when the feeling transgresses the limits of moderation, instead of being a virtue it becomes a fault. By seeking to promote the interests of European merchants at the expense of natives, Government is acting contrary to the dictates of all sound policy. The reduction of the holidays in utter disregard of the wishes of the natives of Bengal has produced exceeding dissatisfaction. The Durgapuja is an occasion of family gatherings, as well as of transacting business and attending to family affairs. A reduction of the period of vacation will make it impossible for many to repair to their native villages, or celebrate the puja at their houses. This is felt to be a great hardship. The Editor notices with indignation a suggestion made by the *Englishman*, to the effect that, there would be no room for dissatisfaction regarding this matter of holidays if, in all offices, native employés were supplanted by East Indians; and his reply is that the suggestion is simply impracticable, because the East Indians are not able to do the work which is done by the Bengalis.

**DACCA PRAKASH.**

16. In an article on this subject the same paper condemns the action of Government in dispossessing the Maharaja of the Garo Hills on selfish pretexts. His remarks are similar to those noticed in paragraph 22 of our report of the 13th September 1879.

**DACCA PRAKASH.**

17. The same paper thanks Sir Steuart Bayley for his successful exertions to exempt all persons whose annual earnings are less than Rs. 250 from the operations of the License Tax. His Honor has comprehended the feelings of the people, and has felt for them. May His Honor live long, and be confirmed in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal!



SADHARANI,  
September 21st, 1879.

18. Referring to the letter of the Financial Member of the Viceroy's Council to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in which the latter is authorized "to issue orders exempting from liability to license tax all persons whose annual earnings are, in the judgment of the Collector, less than Rs. 250," the *Sádháraní*, of the 21st September, makes the following observations:—There could be no adequate satisfaction, even if the above were written in large letters of gold. The news has caused general rejoicings. As the reduction of the Durgapuja holidays has produced an amount of dissatisfaction which defies all powers of description, so, on the contrary, the exemption of the poor from the operation of the License Tax has evoked a feeling of gratification which it is impossible adequately to describe. The poor and the destitute are blessing His Honor with up-lifted hands. The Editor takes the occasion to make a few remarks for the consideration of Government. *First*, those that are still liable to the tax should have the time of appeal extended for one month more. The injustice which, owing to the shortness of time, was previously unavoidable, may, if the suggestion be adopted, be remedied. *Secondly*, the appeals, in which the earnings of a person are assessed at Rs. 250 a year, should be carefully heard, for there has been occasional miscarriage of justice in such cases. *Thirdly*, in cases where amounts of one rupee and two rupees have been already realized, refunds should be promptly made. Care should be taken to see that the whole of the amount paid as tax is refunded, and that no commission is taken by anybody. *Fourthly*, in places where there have been destructive floods, all grades of the license tax should be remitted for one year. The discontent caused by this tax would materially diminish if Government but listened to these suggestions.

19. By sanctioning the proposal to reduce the number of Durgapuja holidays, writes the same paper, Government has occasioned an amount of discontent which it is not possible adequately to describe. Those whose native villages are two or three days' journey from their place of work will, if the vacation is reduced to eight days, find it practically impossible to go home. They have already begun to bless (?) Government with all their heart. Considering that they slave all through the year with the exception of only twelve days, what wonder that a measure which reduced the duration of this small period should be regarded with dissatisfaction? These holidays afford the only occasion to the middle class Bengali for repairing to his native village for meeting his friends and acquaintances, and attending to family affairs and settling them for one year to come. It is to be hoped that Government will pay heed to the memorial of the British Indian Association on this subject.

20. The same paper, while feeling grateful for the improvements which have recently taken place in postal communications, and the praiseworthy efforts of the authorities to render increasing aid to the public in this connection, directs the attention of Government to the low salaries allowed to the post-masters in the mofussil. The officers in charge of the branch post-offices are not allowed a higher pay than Rs. 9 or Rs. 10 a month—a sum which is manifestly inadequate to their necessities. While it is exceedingly desirable that these officers should be above corruption, owing to the low scale of their remuneration, they are often tempted to do wrong. The authorities seem to think that the making of stringent rules is all that is required to secure safety. It was an error to multiply the number of branch post-offices and place them in charge of men on low pay and possessed of no education. It would have been better if, instead of this, a sufficient number of letter-boxes and peons were allowed to work under one head

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post-office. As a matter of fact, there is but little difference between a letter-box and a branch post-office. Another matter that calls for notice in this connection is the injustice which is often done to the subordinate officers of the postal department through the caprices of the inspectors. The power of the latter, for good or evil, is immense. Merit is not rewarded, while favouritism reigns supreme. The writer then calls attention to the case of one Panchánan Bágchi, the postmaster of Banowariabad, in the Burdwan district. This officer has served Government with great efficiency for the last twelve or thirteen years on Rs. 20 a month. His pay, however, has been reduced to Rs. 15 for no fault that is known, while another, Avinásh Chandra Mukerjee, postmaster of Patuli, considerably his junior, has had his salary increased by Rs. 10 a month.

SAHACHAR,  
September 22nd, 1879.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 22nd September, condemns the objections that are now being made in the newspapers to the newly-promulgated Civil Service rules on the ground that under them the native candidates selected in this country will not be allowed equal pay with the European members of the service. These, according to him, are unreasonable objections. One of the strongest grounds for the appointment of natives to offices now held by civilians will be found to lie in the smaller pay on which the former may agree to serve the State; and if there is to be no inequality in this respect, Government will naturally hesitate to supersede Europeans by natives. It is, moreover, reasonable that the salary of Europeans, coming as they do from a distant land, should be higher than that which may lawfully be claimed by natives of the soil; nor is the scale of remuneration provided for in the rules for the selected candidates low. Under these circumstances, it is neither fair nor advisable to embarrass Government by raising unreasonable objections.

SAHACHAR.

22. The same paper mentions the names of three candidates who are said to have been selected for admission into the Civil Service for this year. One of them, Kumar Gopendra Krishna, is, according to the Editor, a qualified person in all respects. But what can be said of Shymá Mádhav Ráya or Gnanendra Náráyan of Cooch Behar? They can only point to a distinguished lineage. Government would be mistaken if it thought that nominations such as these would give satisfaction. Will not those who have distinguished themselves in the judicial or executive service be rewarded by promotion? Baboo Ram Shankar Sen, Moulvi Abdul Latif, Baboo Brajendra Kumar Shil, Baboo Amrita Lal Chatterjee—are not these entitled to promotion?

#### LOCAL.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
September 22nd, 1879.

23. A correspondent of the *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd September, notices the existence of severe distress among the agriculturists in Midnapore. Owing to continued drought the crops have been destroyed. The area irrigated with canal water is hardly a seventh part of that which is usually cultivated in this district. The mahajuns have stopped making advances of grain. Many families are living on one meal a day. The outlook is extremely gloomy.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

SHARAD KAUMUDI,

24. We have this week received the first three numbers of a Bengali weekly published at Bhowanipore. The *Shárad Kaumudí* is a pice paper. We shall review it in our next report.

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